



Sunday, March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship Service — 10 am

Connect with NLUMC

- Join our live Zoom worship services online.
 - Check out our church website at nlumc.com, including YouTube videos of our past services.
 - Get updates on our ministries by joining our Facebook group.
 - See photos of what we are doing on our Instagram page.
- Contact the church office or any of our pastors for more information.

Growing relationships, in Christ.

Order of Worship

Seeking God's Way . . . From Exceptionalism to Inclusion.

Prelude

Announcements

Words of welcome

Call to worship

VT #797, *We are People of God's Peace*

Confession & Assurance

Lenten prayer of confession

VT #309, *Fill Us with Your Feast*

Offering prayer

Special music — Beautiful Things

Children's time — Puppet video

Scripture reading — Luke 15:11-32 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Message

VT #300, *Far, Far Away/I Will Arise*

First sending

Sharing and prayer

VT #839, *Go, My Friends in Peace*, Verse B

Benediction

Today — Outdoor Sunday School available; children, please come prepared to play outside!

Thank you to our participants today including: Judy Cornies, Curtis Driedger, Fred Driedger, Greg Driedger, Linda Driedger, Lindsey Ecker, Hayden Epp, Kendall Jongejan Harder, Ben Konrad, Debbie Srigley, Ken Srigley, Joan Willms.

Church Life . . .

◆ **COVID Protocols are Changing as of Today, March 27**

NLUMC will continue with the wearing of masks and social distancing. We will continue with open windows for ventilation/air flow. Hand sanitizer will be available in the lobby. As the weather becomes nicer, please move outside quickly after the worship service and let's have greetings and visitation outdoors. We will no longer need to register with the office or sign-in the attendance binder. We ask everyone to consider their personal risk as they return to the church sanctuary.

We realize that there is a definite benefit to build relationships in Christ when we come together under the same roof, therefore, we encourage more people and our young families to return to worshipping together in the sanctuary as you see fit.

We would like to have Greeters in the lobby again before church, so please sign up on the Greeters Schedule in the lobby.

We are grateful that the COVID virus seems to be lessening and yet we do not want to let our guard down. We hope and pray for health and wellness for all. Thanks to our ad-hoc Pandemic Team for guiding us through the past two years and thanks to our pastors for their guidance.

◆ **The Sun Parlour Growing Project** is a partnership of Leamington United Mennonite Church members and local farmers who are planting 65 acres of corn this year for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Mennonite Central Committee. Donations are being accepted to contribute to the \$600 cost of the planting each acre. The harvested crop, with an estimated value of \$1200 per acre can then access up to 4 times the value through a government matching program for humanitarian aid. Donations can be made by cheque to the Sun Parlour Growing Project. Any amount would be gratefully received. If you would like to learn more about this project, we are invited to join a Zoom information session, **after church today at 11:30 am**. The Zoom link was sent out, by email, on Friday, March 25 in the weekly email. Canadian Foodgrains Bank and MCC representatives will join the local Committee Members in sharing more information about the project on the Zoom meeting.

. . . *NLUMC Missions Team*

◆ **Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, March 30** from 6:30 to 7 pm via Zoom. Contact the church office if you do not have the Zoom link.

◆ **Worship Team meeting, Wednesday, March 30, 7 pm.**



Lent 4

Reflection question

Who gets to enjoy God's feast today?

◆ **Lent and Easter Worship: Seeking God's Way**

Lent is a time for seeking God's ways, which are higher than our ways. As a congregation, we have been considering how God speaks even in the wilderness. During the six weeks of Lent, we are considering how God's ways are not our ways and asking God to show us The Way. Judy Cornies and Debbie Srigley have prepared a puppet presentation for the children each week, and special music has been arranged for each week. Fifth Sunday of Lent, **April 3: *From Scarcity to Abundance***. Pastor Kendall will preach, Joel Epp will lead worship. Outdoor Sunday School available; children, please come prepared to play outside!

◆ **Missions Team** is doing a paska fundraiser. Orders can be placed by calling or texting Nancy Gualtieri, 519-322-4747 or Tammy Warkentin, 519-818-2101. **Please have orders in by Tuesday, April 5.** Free will offerings are accepted, and all funds collected will be forwarded to MCC to help the Ukraine. Anyone interested in helping bake paska, please contact Nancy.

◆ **Lent** is the 40 days (plus Sundays) before Easter. This is traditionally a time of reflection and prayer and we encourage you to take this opportunity to deepen your spiritual life. Some options:

1) *Good Enough* devotional by Kate Bowler. Connect with Chani Wiens or Pastor Charleen to join a reading group.

2) Lenten Guided Prayer. We will be having a small group gathering once a week for a time of prayer. Talk to Pastor Kendall to sign up. If you are unable to attend, there are weekly prayer guides to help focus your prayers. This is a link to week one:

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=XZ23kXVZFx6GXHWHfejim4xyi1HsaHOgyQAk>

3) Goshen College daily devotions - sign up at

<https://www.goshen.edu/devotions/goshen-college-online-lenten-devotions-to-begin-march-2/>

4) Resources from Hamilton Mennonite Church

at <https://www.hmc.on.ca/news/seeking-gods-ways>

◆ **NLUMC Would Like to Create a “Drivers List.”**

Occasionally, some of our members may need to be driven to medical appointments if they do not have a family member available to do so. If you would be willing to drive, please submit your name to Susan in the church office. She will keep a running list, and as needed she would share your contact name with a family needing this service.

◆ **Hello from Church Council**

The congregation has asked for more open communication, so we have created a "communication tree" so that people have a direct connection to someone on Council. We used the names of survey respondents as indicators of people who are directly invested in sharing their ideas for "NLUMC for the Future." For those people who responded to the survey, you will receive an email, phone call, or text from the person on Council who is part of your phone tree in the next few weeks. If you didn't send in a survey but would like to be part of this "communication tree" please let anyone on Council know and we will add you! We are excited for this new way to be connected to each other and continue to build relationships with each other in Christ.

We also heard from many that we would like more times of congregational discussion and conversation together, so we are planning a

membership meeting for **Sunday, April 24** at 11:30 am in the church sanctuary after the morning worship service. More details will be shared. As always, if you have any feedback or want to share anything please contact a member of Church Council. . . *Brenda Fischer, Council Chairperson*

◆ **Donations to NLUMC are accepted by —**

- 1) Automatic transfers – contact Susan
- 2) E-transfer – email treasurer@nlumc.com - include member # in message
- 3) leave donation in the nightly drop box at Kindred Credit Union – labelled NLUMC – include donation #
- 4) mail donation to church address

Contact Susan Klassen, office@nlumc.com; or Brenda Klassen, treasurer@nlumc.com.

Community/Conference Events . . .

◆ **Essex Kent Mennonite Historical Association** presents: **History of Ukraine** fundraising event by Andrew Stebelsky at Leamington United Mennonite Church on **Saturday, April 2** at 7 pm. Donations accepted for Ukraine relief fund. Everyone welcome, masks required.

◆ **Leamington Mennonite Home News**

As the Leamington Mennonite Home continues the management of COVID-19 and all the associated rigours of the Omicron variant, a decision has been made to delay the Corporate Members Meeting and the Annual General Meeting by one month. Typically, these meetings are held in March. In 2022 the Corporate Members Meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 5** and the Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, April 19**. Please continue to hold the staff, residents, and resident family members in your thoughts and prayers.

◆ **Respond to the Crisis in Ukraine.** MCC is responding to the crisis in Ukraine through its local partners. Russian military forces have invaded the country with missiles striking major cities and casualties continuing to grow. Your prayers and donations will help partners scale up their work providing relief and trauma healing for vulnerable and displaced people. “Ukraine is experiencing major upheaval, but our partners have supplies ready to help vulnerable and displaced people,” says Rebecca Hessenauer, MCC representative for Ukraine. Donate today at mcccanada.ca/ukraine.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional territory of indigenous peoples. In Leamington, we gather on the traditional, unceded territory of the Caldwell First Nation, and the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat peoples. We give thanks to the Creator and to those peoples who have stewarded this land for generations.

Junior Youth

CONNECT JR is online **Tuesday, March 29**, at 7 pm.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 22 at 6:30 pm for an in-person activity. Details to follow!

Prayer List . . .

Neighbouring Congregation — Today, in our cycle of prayer, let us remember **Salvation Army Leamington Community Church** and their pastor Judi Wickens.

Each week MCEC, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, prays for one of our congregations. This week we are praying for **MDM (Mennonite Disciple Mission) Joliette** in Joliette, Quebec.

Ed Neufeld is in Palliative Care at the Leamington Mennonite Home. We pray for his wife, *Elfrieda*, and we pray for a gentle passing for Ed.

If you are aware of any needs within our congregation, please contact the church office so the Pastors and Caregiving Team can offer support.

We also invite you to let the church office know of any requests for visitation by phoning 519-326-7928 or emailing office@nlumc.com

In case of emergency, contact a Pastor listed below.

Pastors

Charleen Jongejan Harder . cell 519-329-3829..... charleen@nlumc.com

Kendall Jongejan Harder cell 519-329-1514..... kendall@nlumc.com

Church phone: 519-326-7928 Email: office@nlumc.com

Facebook: North Leamington United Mennonite Church.....

Website: www.northleamington.com Instagram: [wethenorthchurch](https://www.instagram.com/wethenorthchurch)

Office hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9 am – 3 pm; Friday, 9 am – 3 pm.